COOK for PEACE

When a billion people go hungry each day, how can we spend another dollar on war? Food Not Bombs is an all-volunteer movement that recovers food that would other wise be discarded, and shares free vegan and vegetarian meals with the hungry in over 1,000 cities around the world as a way to protest war, poverty, and the destruction of the environment. We also provide food to the survivors of natural disasters and people participating in occupations, strikes, vigils, marches and other protests.

Food Not Bombs is not a charity but seeks to end the crisis of corporate domination and exploitation through nonviolent direct action so no one is forced to stand in line to eat at a soup kitchen. Food Not Bombs has no formal leaders and strives to include everyone in its decision-making process. Each group recovers food that would otherwise be discarded; prepares fresh hot vegan and vegetarian meals that are share in public spaces like plazas, parks and sidewalks to everyone that passes by, without restriction; and distributes groceries, clothing and other supplies with the community.

The first group was formed in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1980 by eight college-aged, anti-nuclear activists. In 1988, the San Francisco police started arresting our volunteers for the "crime" of making a political statement by sharing meals with the hungry making nearly 1,000 arrests by 1997. The police have also arrested our volunteers for feeding the hungry in a number of other cities in the United States including Middletown, Connecticut, Tampa and Orlando, Florida, Arcata and Los Angeles, California. Amnesty International declared that they would adopt any Food Not Bombs volunteers that is imprisoned as "Prisoners of Conscience" and will work for their unconditional release.

Volunteers have shared food at anti-globalization protests in many cities including Seattle, Cancun, Miami, Gutenberg, and Toronto. Food Not Bombs organized the food relief effort for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Volunteers also fed the rescue workers in New York after 9/11; started animal rescue shelters in 24 cities in Slovakia; provided food for 100 days during the Orange Revolution in the Ukraine; fed Camp Casey in Crawford, Texas and striking auto workers in Korea; supported kitchens at hundreds of occupations including Occupy Wall Street, Occupy Oakland and Occupy DC.

Food Not Bombs works in coalition with groups like Earth First!, The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Farm Animal Rights Movement, the IWW, and Anti Racist Action. Food Not Bombs activists started projects like Indymedia, Bikes Not Bombs, Homes Not Jails, Food Not Lawns, the Free Radio Movement, Really Really Free Markets and many other grass-roots projects. The movement has a 180 page book "Hungry For Peace" that provides the information one would need to start and maintaing a Food Not Bombs chapter. A copy is available by visiting www.foodnotbombs.net. You can join Food Not Bombs in taking direct action towards creating a world free from domination, coercion and violence.

Food is a right, not a privilege...Solidarity not charity.

FOOD NOT BOMBS

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